

articulation of the second zone, and its coarser sculpture, sufficiently distinguish it.

I have named this species after T. Lombe Taylor, Esq., whose fortunate purchase of the types of the *Solaria* described by the late Mr. Hinds, from Sir E. Belcher's collection, has materially assisted me in my monograph of this genus.

S. SOVERBII, Hanl. *Testa subdiscoidea, fulva et albido-fulvo undatim nebulosa seu variegata: sutura anguste canaliculata. Anfractus (pauci?) filis elevatis obliquis transversim clathrati, in cingula 4 crenogranosa, quorum 3 superiora, cum sulcis suis, æqualia sunt, et ultimum, cum sulco præcedente, aliquantum est latius, divisi: infra secundum oritur denique cingulum alium. Peripheria declivis, haud biangulata, sed cingulis nonnullis similibus, minus autem vicinis, sulcisque clathratis instructa, ita ut cingula circiter 13-14 ultimum anfractum ornant. Basis planæ vel retusæ cingula 4 intima (seu ultima) multo remotius clathrata, sulcis latioribus sejuncta; crenæ permultæ cinguli ultimi (omnium latissimi) ultra parietem humilem umbilici modici conspicue eminentes.*

*Hab.* Littora Tunetana.

*Mus.* Brit.

The sculpture is peculiar. Four whorls alone are developed in the described examples.

#### 9. ON THE BREEDING OF THE NUTCRACKER (*NUCIFRAGA CARYOCATACTES*). BY ALFRED NEWTON, M.A., F.L.S., F.Z.S.

About six months ago (P. Z. S. 1861, pp. 396-7), I expressed a hope of being able before long to give the Society some more certain information with respect to the breeding of the Nutcracker (*Nucifraga caryocatactes*). In that I hope I have not been altogether disappointed.

The nest and young bird now exhibited (the latter still showing traces of its original downy clothing) have been received by me within the last few days from my excellent friend Herr Pastor P. W. Theobald of Copenhagen, to whom I think the Society will join with me in hearty congratulations on his success in obtaining these decisive facts in regard to the nidification of this mysterious bird, and whose zeal in the quest of zoological discovery fully deserves, in my opinion, all the praise that can be accorded to it.

Believing, however, that the Pastor will himself publish fuller details of this interesting capture, I will only briefly recount the information with which he has supplied me.

It appears that previously to the summer of 1860, a forester in the island of Bornholm had satisfied himself that the Nutcracker was in the habit of breeding there annually. He had seen it every month in the year, from May to November inclusive; and this intelligence being communicated to Herr Theobald, that gentleman made

an expedition to the island, but without finding the special object of his search—a nest of the bird. This present spring, however, the Pastor, accompanied by two of his friends, H.H. Erichsen and Fischer, both keen oologists, visited Bornholm a second time; and one of their achievements I have now the pleasure of making known to you. Writing from that island, on the 30th of May last, Herr Theobald says:—

“Returning to the result of our ornithological expedition, I can tell you that, after many days’ inquiries, we succeeded in finding two nests of *Caryocactes*, the young birds flying near them. As we presumed, we came too late for getting the eggs; but I think we have advanced a good deal, and after this discovery we dare be almost sure of receiving them next year. Our gentle and clever host, the forester Rosen, who now knows the time and manner of nidification of this bird, may be considered a guarantee for our hopes.

“We have thought it might be of interest to you to possess an undoubtedly genuine nest of *Caryocactes*, and also a young bird in the first plumage; we therefore send you one nest and one skin. Both the nests are of the same size and construction. They were in fir-trees (*Pinus rubra*), not very private, but rather easy to find. It is likely that the young birds had left the nest perhaps eight days. None of them moved, except with difficulty, among the branches; and one of them fell on the ground. The old birds cried, but only sometimes, with an anxious voice that was not unlike a Magpie’s, and then all was silent again. In the neighbourhood of the nest, where the birds had been previously observed, we found on the rocky ground a good number of freshly cracked hazel-nuts; and as no nut-trees grow there, the birds must fetch them from a distance of an English mile at least. We are inclined to think that they collect them in autumn and secure them in a private spot; and perhaps it is on this account also that the bird, whose economy is very hidden, is seldom to be seen in the breeding-time.

“As I have already mentioned, the nest is not of the most difficult class to find. It is not built on the top [of the tree], but close to the stem, about 25 or 30 feet high. The bird is an early breeder, but can scarcely have eggs before the beginning of April.

“Now you have the nest wherein the young birds were lately hatched, and a young bird in its first plumage. Next year we hope to send you very well authenticated eggs.”

I have only to conclude by mentioning that the nest, as will be seen on examination, is of large size, some five or six inches in thickness, with an outside diameter of about a foot, and a shallow depression of six inches across; but the cup was probably a good deal deeper before its brim was subjected to the weight of the young birds. It is composed outwardly of sticks and twigs, among which I recognize those of the larch, spruce, and birch. These latter show the period at which it must have been built, as the buds, though enlarged, had not burst. It has a thick lining of grass, which appears to have been plucked while growing. The very small bits of moss and lichen do not seem to have been intentionally added, but to have adhered

to the other materials. The down with which the nestling has been covered, and of which traces may be observed on a few of the back-feathers, is of a dark-brownish grey, as is usual among the *Corvidæ*. The first plumage much resembles that of the adult, being, however, duller in colour and with the white tear-like spots less conspicuous; but the quill-feathers of the wings and tail are not so entirely destitute of metallic reflexions as some authors lead one to imagine.

Whether the Nutcracker builds the whole structure for itself, or only furnishes the forsaken nest of some other animal, I do not know. This and other particulars we shall probably soon learn from Pastor Theobald himself; and I need scarcely say I look forward with the greatest interest to the clearing up of our doubts as to what its eggs are really like.

#### 10. NOTE ON NANNOPERCA AUSTRALIS. BY DR. A. GÜNTHER.

This fish has been described in the preceding volume of the 'Proceedings' of this Society, p. 116, where the *absence of the lateral line* has been mentioned as one of the generic characters. By some misunderstanding, the artist has added a strongly marked lateral line (1861, Pl. XIX. fig. 2), an error which has been discovered too late for correction. Therefore I take an early opportunity of confirming the statement made in the text.

#### 11. ON SOME POINTS RELATING TO THE ANATOMY OF THE HUMMING-BIRD (*TROCHILUS COLUBRIS*). BY EDWARDS CRISP, M.D., F.Z.S., ETC.

The recent dissection of the above-named bird has induced me to place an account of some parts of its anatomy before the Society, believing that the communication will not be devoid of interest.

I am indebted to Mr. Gould for the Humming-bird, which he captured in America, and brought alive to this country; but it lived only a few days after its arrival.

It had been preserved in spirits for some time before I examined it, and therefore the weight may not have been exactly the same when first captured, but I believe that the difference would be very slight. I have, in the accompanying drawing, depicted the bird with and without its skin. I have also represented the skeleton and all the viscera by measurement.

The bird (a female) weighed 61 grains; its length from beak to tail 4 inches, the bill being three-fourths of an inch, the tail 1 inch; from the extremity of each wing, when extended,  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches. Tail-feathers ten; wing-feathers in all sixteen, the first the longest.

On removing the skin, the bird, as represented in the drawing, had a very plump, solid appearance, the pectoral muscles being of very large size: they weighed 12 grains, being nearly one-fifth the weight of the bird. The extremities of the os hyoides, as in the